

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1. through 7. (Cancelled)

8. (Currently amended) An inhibitor for the generation of deterioration smell of citral or a citral-containing product, which comprises an extract obtained by extracting one part per weight of semi-fermented tea leaves or fermented tea leaves with a polar organic solvent, water or a mixture thereof 2 – 100 parts by weight of a solvent selected from water, ethanol or a mixture thereof according to a dipping method or a method of heating under reflux, wherein deterioration smell is caused by p-cresol or p-methylacetophenone.

9. (Previously presented) An inhibitor for the generation of deterioration smell of citral or a citral-containing product as claimed in claim 8, wherein said citral-containing product is a citrus-series flavor or citrus-series fragrance.

10. (Previously presented) An inhibitor for the generation of deterioration smell of a citral-containing product as claimed in claim 8, wherein said citral-containing product is a citrus-series drink or citrus-series confectionery.

11. (Previously presented) An inhibitor for the generation of deterioration smell of a citral-containing product as claimed in claim 8, wherein said citral-containing product is fragrances and cosmetics.

12. (Currently amended) A method for inhibiting the generation of deterioration smell of citral or a citral-containing product wherein an inhibitor for the generation of deterioration smell is added in an amount between about 1-500 ppm, said inhibitor comprising an extract obtained by extracting one part by weight of semi-fermented tea leaves or fermented tea leaves ~~with a polar organic solvent, water or a mixture thereof~~ 2 – 100 parts by weight of a solvent selected from water, ethanol or a mixture thereof according to a dipping method or a method of heating under reflux, wherein deterioration smell is caused by p-cresol or p-methylacetophenone.

13. (Currently amended) A citral or citral-containing product wherein an inhibitor for the generation of deterioration smell is added in an amount between about 1-500 ppm, said inhibitor comprising an extract obtained by extracting one part by weight of semi-fermented tea leaves or fermented tea leaves ~~with a polar organic solvent, water or a mixture thereof~~ 2 – 100 parts by weight of a solvent selected from water, ethanol or a mixture thereof according to a dipping method or a method of heating under reflux, wherein deterioration smell is caused by p-cresol or p-methylacetophenone.